MEMORANDUM   2107

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION
April 14, 1973

SECRET/CODEWORD

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

SUBJECT: Communist Violations of the Vietnam
                     and Laos Agreements

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Attached at Tab A is the CIA/DIA weekly report, dated April 13, on
Communist violations of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.
Among the report's most significant findings are the following items:
Only two small groups of specialists started South during the last week.
Two other small groups were also detected for the first time in the pipe-
line. A high level of North Vietnamese logistics activity continues.
Vehicle traffic increased in Quang Tri and over the passes into Laos.
Tenuous evidence also suggests that at least some elements of two NVA
divisions (304 and 312) in northern MR-1 may be returning to adjacent
areas of North Vietnam. However, even if all elements of these units
departed, the NVA would retain a force structure in MR-1 similar to
what existed on the eve of the 1972 Easter offensive. Communist initiated
combat incidents remained at a moderate level in the South but rose signi-
ficantly in Laos.

Highlights of the details are summarized below.

North Vietnamese Personnel Movements

-- During the reporting period, the initial detection of four small
special purpose groups in the pipeline does not significantly affect our
total estimate of 35,000 North Vietnamese personnel who were either in
the pipeline January 28 or started South since that date. No new combat
replacement personnel have started South in the past month and fewer
special purpose groups have been detected starting South, thus indicating
that infiltration of both categories may be drawing to a close as the rainy
season approaches.

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DIA review completed.

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-- The evidence indicating the redeployment of some element of two NVA divisions to southern North Vietnam is tenuous. We do not know whether the change reflects a permanent move or a temporary rest and refitting period before rotating back into the South.

-- A total of ten SAM-2 missile sites have now been established near Khe Sanh (four of their sites are occupied). Two NVA AAA regiments are relocating from Quang Tri to the southern Laos/Cambodian border area. The headquarters element of an NVA armored regiment has moved from the Hanoi area to a point north of Loc Ninh on the MR-3/Cambodian border.

Movement of Supplies

-- Heavy Communist logistics movements continued during the past week, particularly in Quang Tri Province where supplies are being moved into forward areas. Traffic moving South over the passes out of North Vietnam increased slightly. The heaviest NVA truck traffic in southern Laos occurred in areas adjacent to Quang Tri and A Shau Valley.

-- Specific instances of logistics activity inside South Vietnam included:

• On Route 9 in northern Quang Tri Province, 334 vehicles were noted between April 6-10.

• On April 10, 31 x 57 mm AAA pieces were observed parked on Route 616 near Khe Sanh.

• Forty-one buses were observed parked along Route 1 north of Quang Tri City on April 8.

• One hundred thirty southbound cargo vehicles were observed on Route 1033 in the western DMZ between April 6-12.

-- In southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia, the following activities, among others, were noted:

• On Route 99 in the central Lao panhandle, 329 vehicles were observed between April 6-10.

• In the period 6-12 April, 322 vehicles were detected moving South through the Ban Karai Pass.

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Combat Activity

-- In South Vietnam, ARVN reported a total of 88 major and 597 minor Communist initiated cease-fire violations, in contrast to 122 and 597 incidents respectively during the previous period. These incidents included 6 major ground attacks, and the downing of 3 helicopters (two with ICCS markings).

-- In Laos, NVA forces launched heavy, sustained attacks, supported by tanks against RLG units defending the Route 4 corridor southeast of the Plaine des Jarres.

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